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# Regional Council Activity Report

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November 8, 2000

## Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey



### Executive Director's Report

Vince Lombardi once said: "The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work." If hard work is indeed the precursor to success – then we must certainly be on the right track!

It has been my pleasure to take part in a number of important partnering sessions over the past month. On October 5, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Board and the MAG Executive Committee met to discuss future transportation priorities and issues. On October 15-17, I had the opportunity to meet with the directors of the Councils of Governments of the four-corner states, in which we compared challenges and shared solutions. On October 23, in its sixth – and most significant – meeting of the year, the Resource Allocation Advisory Committee met to set program funding from 2002 through 2006. From what was once only a 10.5 percent share of the funding pie, MAG will receive an average 32.5 percent share during the five-year program, with a 42.9 percent share received during the last year (2006) of the funding cycle. The Pima Association of Governments (PAG) will receive 11.1 percent of the pie, while the balance of the state will receive 58.4 percent. These figures mark a significant show of cooperation between ADOT, MAG, PAG, the Regional Public Transportation Authority, and other Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

On October 25, a joint meeting was held between MAG and PAG in Casa Grande to discuss transportation funding allocations, funding needs, strategies for seeking additional revenue sources, and a review of the activities of the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force.

On October 27, MAG and ADOT staff met jointly to focus on improving working relationships between the agencies to create early and continuous interaction throughout the planning process.

A lot of meetings? Yes. But each of these partnering sessions was unique and valuable in its own right. As the MAG mantra continually affirms: it is only through the cooperative efforts of many separate agencies that we can solve

regional problems. Our joint work products directly affect how the region grows – and our quality of life. And, while I recognize that the phrase “quality of life” has become overused to the point that we scarcely pay attention to it anymore, its meaning of creating a community where we enjoy living, working and being must remain our ultimate objective.

And, through the hard work of all of us – that ultimate objective will be our ultimate success.



## **Regional Council Meeting Report for November 1, 2000**

### **Council Approves CANAMEX Corridor Recommendation**

The MAG Regional Council approved a MAG/ADOT report and a resolution regarding the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region. The resolution recommends that the future designation of the Corridor include I-8 between I-10 and SR 85, SR 85 between I-8 and I-10, and the US 93/US 60 Wickenburg Bypass. The resolution provides for the connection between the SR 85/I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass to be designated following additional study. The resolution also constrains the connecting route to a location west of the White Tank mountains for air quality reasons. The resolution eliminates Loops 101 and 303 from consideration for designation as part of the CANAMEX Corridor.

The Council amended a motion to recommend the remainder of the route within six months, because of ADOT concerns that key studies relating to the Corridor won't be complete in that time. The Council approved a revised target time frame of 12 months for making the recommendation.

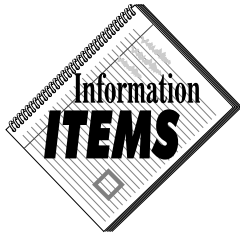
**For more information contact Chris Voigt, MAG Senior Engineer, at (602) 254-6300.**

### **Prioritized List of Street Sweeper Projects Approved**

Eight PM-10 certified street sweepers will be purchased in FY 2001 as part of a MAG plan to reduce particulate pollution less than ten microns in diameter (PM-10). The FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program contains \$960,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to purchase the street sweepers, which use a vacuum system to reduce particulate emissions that are stirred up by vehicles traveling on paved roads. In all, MAG received requests for 21 projects totaling over \$2.6 million in federal funds from MAG member agencies. The approved list of prioritized projects

enables the purchase of certified street sweepers for the cities of Mesa, Phoenix (which will receive 2 sweepers), Glendale, Paradise Valley, Chandler, Gilbert and Tolleson. The prioritized list will be retained in the event additional funding becomes available.

**For more information contact Cari Anderson, MAG Senior Engineer, at (602) 254-6300.**



## **Information Items**

### **MAG Completes Early Phase Input Opportunity Report**

Valley citizens were given a variety of opportunities to tell decision makers what types of projects they want included in upcoming transportation plans, during the FY 2001 Early Phase Input Opportunity completed in October. The comments received by citizens during the early phase are included in the MAG FY 2001 Early Phase Input Opportunity Report, which was distributed to the Council during its November 1 meeting.

The Early Phase Input Opportunity is part of MAG's public involvement program to get citizens to share ideas for the region's transportation future. The public involvement process is divided into four phases: early phase, mid-phase, final phase and continuous involvement. The early phase is one of the most important phases in the process, because the input received is used by transportation agency decision makers in developing policies and projects for the next five years.

Forums for input included a Transportation Stakeholders meeting, public open houses, small group presentations and extended public comment periods at MAG meetings. During the early phase, the most comments received involved transit issues, followed by concerns regarding services for persons with disabilities.

**For more information or to receive a copy of the report, contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



## **Upcoming Issues**

### **MAG Seeking New Videoconferencing Contractor**

The Maricopa Association of Governments has cancelled its contract with Intellysis Group, which was to provide purchase, installation, testing, training

and support services for the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. In September, Intellisys closed its Tempe office and by early October informed MAG that its assets were being bought out by another technology company. Shortly thereafter, Intellisys filed for protection under Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws. On November 2, MAG issued a Notice of Termination for Cause, severing its contract with the company. MAG is issuing a Request for Proposals for a new videoconferencing vendor for the completion of the project. MAG plans to be able to recommend the selected contractor to the Regional Council at the December 13, 2000 meeting.

**For more information contact Rita Walton, MAG Information Services Manager, or Heidi Pahl, MAG Videoconferencing Planner, at (602) 254-6300.**



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Five MAG Member Agencies to go Online for First Time**

The towns of Buckeye, El Mirage, Guadalupe, Tolleson and Youngtown will soon be receiving all the technical wizardry needed to send e-mail, access the Internet and establish a basic Web presence – through the MAG Regional Connections project. Within the next few weeks, the five cities and towns will be presented with computers, color inkjet printers, hardware and software to enable them to go online. The Regional Connections project was recommended by the MAG Technical Advisory Group to ensure that all member agencies had a Web presence and the ability to communicate and conduct business electronically.

**For more information contact Audrey Skidmore, MAG Automation Support Program Manager, at (602) 254-6300.**

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Ave., Suite 200. Agenda items are expected to include an update on the MAG Videoconferencing Project, a recommendation to accept the MAG Regional Congestion Study, and a recommendation encouraging compliance with Fair Housing Standards.

**For more information contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.**